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MILITARY

Negative

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Moscow Disarmament Congress. The Moscow Congress for Disarmament and Peace faded markedly in its last three days. Soviet press coverage of the daily meetings decreased steadily after Khrushchev's July 10 speech and revived only briefly for the conclusion.

The platitudinous final message of the Congress, the absence of specific endorsements of Soviet positions, the failure to adopt any "action" resolutions gave the Congress an especially low-key appearance. At best it would seem that the Congress will now serve as a reference point for communist agitators and Congress delegates who return home with a vague mandate to promote disarmament.

Non-Soviet bloc embassies found that Khrushchev's speech was a disappointment to most non-communist delegates who expected, or at least hoped for, some sort of dramatic Soviet contribution to disarmament.

The Sino-Soviet differences which were so prominent in the preparatory meetings to the Congress did not manifest themselves during the Congress itself.

2. Berlin/Germany. Khrushchev's restatement of the Soviet position on Berlin in his interview with American journalists (published July 18) was notable primarily for the public affirmation that Khrushchev has no intention of setting a deadline for resolution of the Berlin problem.

The pique which was notable in the Soviet response to the immediate Western rejection of Khrushchev's July 10 formula for replacing the occupation regime in West Berlin, reappeared in Soviet press commentaries on the Secretary's July 13 press conference. The Soviet articles pointed out that Khrushchev's proposal stimulated numerous questions in the press conference, although the Secretary rejected the proposal. The main stress in the reportage of the conference, however, was placed on the Secretary's endorsement of the continuing US-Soviet dialogue on Berlin.

In contrast to the relatively restrained tenor of Khrushchev's comments on Berlin, Izvestiya (July 17) published a sharp commentary by V. Petrov which further developed points outlined in the July 12 TASS Declaration. Petrov also concentrated on the alleged NATO base aspect of the West Berlin occupation regime.

On July 14 the Soviet Union responded to the Western note of June 25 B1

[redacted]

3. Kassem Regime Criticized. In an unsigned article in the July issue of the Soviet bloc journal Problems of Peace and Socialism, the Kassem regime is criticized for repressive handling of the Kurdish minority problem. The article charges that the Iraqi government is attempting to mislead public

opinion: the Kurds are shedding their blood in defense of their national rights; and calls for international solidarity with the Kurds of Iraq and neighboring countries.

4. Disarmament. Pravda, in a commentary addressed to the reopening Geneva conference, contrasted the Soviet draft treaty project with the US "scheme" for basic treaty provisions and concluded that the US scheme is designed to preserve nuclear weapons even after disarmament. The article denounced the US proposal for zonal system of control. It also charged that the US seeks to circumvent the UN which it no longer can dominate and hopes to create another international system within the international disarmament agency by advocating compulsory arbitration and international armed forces.

A subsequent commentary seized on US press reports to charge that the State Department had rebuked Ambassador Dean for even suggesting that the Vela tests will make it possible for the US to accept national control system. The Soviet press contended that Dean's statement caused panic in Washington. The entire incident, according to Soviet commentaries, proves that the US opposes any genuine disarmament program.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

5. The week was a quiet one. KHRUSHCHEV left Moscow July 18 for a visit to Murmansk, designed to give the fishing industry the same invigorating treatment that has marked his frequent agricultural barnstorming tours.

While some of the Americans who sat through the 2½-hour interview with Khrushchev on July 13 were struck by the impression of fatigue Khrushchev gave, they found his mental agility as impressive as ever. He continued to occupy the center of the stage in the Soviet press, receiving Italian Ambassador STRANEO on July 13, attending a performance of a Chinese circus on July 14 with MIKOYAN, and popping up in Petrozavodsk on July 16, en route to Murmansk. On July 17, he was at Zapolyarny, shaking hands with Norwegian engineers working on the construction of a hydroelectric station on the Pas River, which there forms the border with Norway. On July 18, he was climbing aboard vessels of the Murmansk fishing fleet and speaking at a meeting of fishing-industry workers.

It was of some interest that Khrushchev's mode of transportation during these travels was not indicated in the central press. There was no report of his having been seen off in Moscow, either at the railroad station or the airport, by fellow Presidium-members. There was also no listing of the names of members of the First Secretary's party, although it was clear from reports from Murmansk that A. A. ISHKOV, Chairman of the State Committee on the Fishing Industry, was present.

The Khrushchev-Mikoyan visit to the Chinese circus was followed on July 16 by a dinner Mikoyan gave for CPR Foreign Minister CHEN Yi and North Viet-nam Foreign Minister Ung Van KHEM, during their stopover in Moscow en route to Geneva.

Mikoyan also attended the Iraqi Embassy's reception on Republic Day, July 14, leaving a Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Sh. M. ARUSHANYAN, to head the Soviet contingent at the French Embassy's celebration of Bastille Day and thus give point to the present mediocre level of Franco-Soviet relations. Mikoyan left Moscow on July 19 on a "good-will visit" to Indonesia.

While D. S. POLYANSKY and V. V. GRISHIN were briefly in evidence during the week, other members of the top leadership were not to be seen. The vacation season appears to be in full swing.

In an action which evidenced in part the Soviet Government's determination to counter the economic threat of the Common Market (although it is hard to see what it really can do in this sphere), V. N. NOVIKOV was relieved of his duties as Chairman of the State Planning Committee (Gosplan) and named Permanent Representative to the Council of Economic Mutual Aid (CEMA) and Representative in the Executive Committee of CEMA. V. E. DYMSHITS moved up from the job of First Deputy Chairman of Gosplan to the Chairmanship and was given the title of Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers which accompanies the Gosplan Chairmanship. A. A. ETMEKDHIYAN replaced Dymshits as a First Deputy Chairman of Gosplan (cf. Economic WEEKA No. 29, July 20).

6. Drinking Leads to Murder. In late June, when Soviet canteens resumed the long abandoned practice of selling vodka by the glass (D-1146, June 29), an intensification of warnings about the evils of alcohol began to appear in the press. Recently, the sermonizing has been reinforced by the publication of several examples of the affinity between strong drink and crime.

On June 28, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reproduced a letter from its Kurgan-Tyube correspondent complaining that the number of clients of the local sobering-up station had recently increased noticeably and that, "despite its being prohibited, the canteens sell vodka and cognac." An article in the same newspaper on July 18 revealed that in the past six months 1,100 letters, reporting drunkenness of their employees, had been sent to Dushanbe organizations. Vechernyaya Moskva (June 22) printed a letter from a group of factory workers calling for a "stern war against drunkenness" and the prosecution of alcoholics as shirkers from work. Sovetskaya Moldaviya (June 30) and Moskovskaya Pravda (July 8) joined the campaign by reporting deaths resulting from drunken driving, and Sovetskaya Estoniya (June 30) told its readers of a hair-raising incident in which a speeding train stopped just short of a dead-drunk kolkhoz worker who was lying across the tracks.

This week, readers of the Soviet press were further warned by reports of four death sentences. In Baku (Bakinskiy Rabochiy, July 18), strong drink and narcotics were said to be the ties that bound M. AKHMEDKHANOV, A. SAFAROV, and R. KYAZIMOV, sentenced to be shot for stabbing, strangling, and beating cab drivers to death for their money. In Tukum (Sovetskaya Latviya, July 17), A. P. STROGANOV was sentenced to be shot for beating, kicking, and crushing to death with his truck a policeman who had attempted to arrest him on suspicion of drunken driving.

DECLASSIFIED

7. Anti-Parasite Law Used Against Moldavian Sect. Extremely harsh measures have failed to crush a Moldavian sect, the Innokentyevtsy. A standard Soviet work, Osnovnye voprosy nauchnogo ateizma, classifies this sect as one of a type that "various shady characters try to organize under the flag of religion" and describes how a group in Beltsy, Moldavia, murdered uncooperative members in a "death chamber" and buried some of them alive.

According to a report in Sovetskaya Moldaviya (July 14), the sect persists. Mikhail ARTENI, sentenced with two others to a 25-year term in 1953 and released in 1958, was recently tried and sentenced to an undisclosed term by the Supreme Court of the Moldavian SSR. Testimony disclosed that he had again organized a branch of the sect, recruited 23 members, and acquired a secret cell in the village of Tsyntsarena. The report of the trial made the interesting revelation that 15 under-age female members of the sect had previously been sentenced under the anti-parasite law for refusing to give up their religious wanderings and go to work. Four of them were temporarily brought into court to act as witnesses against Arteni and his co-defendants.

MILITARY

Negative

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